

Roberdo Bog and Longleaf Pine Forest is a large, square site that is bisected by N.C. Highway 24-27. Roberdo Bog occurs on the west side of the highway and is surrounded by a Piedmont Longleaf Pine Forest. There is a known occurrence of the rare salamander, Ambystoma talpoideum (Mole salamander) from Roberdo Bog. This is one of only three known breeding sites for mole salamanders in Montgomery County. Mole salamanders occur in the mountains and piedmont of North Carolina. They breed in fish-free semipermanent woodland ponds and forage in adjacent woodlands. Roberdo Bog is also the only known breeding pool for Acris gryllus (Southern cricket frog), a species abundant in the Coastal Plain but very rare in the Piedmont. Another rare salamander that occurs on this site is Hemidatylium scutatum (Four-toed salamander) which has a North Carolina Status of Special Concern. Roberdo Bog is the only site in the county that harbors two state-listed amphibians. The common Ambystoma maculatum (Spotted salamander) are also known to breed in Roberdo Bog.

Sciurus niger (Eastern fox squirrel) has been noted in the longleaf pine forest on this site. This squirrel is disjunct from the coastal plain and sandhills. It is known to occur on only one other site in Montgomery County on the Pleasant Grove Bog and Pine Savanna site.

A few forest interior and migratory neotropical birds were noted during the botanical survey. These species include Piranga olivacea (Scarlet tanager), Coccyzus americanus (Yellow-billed cuckoo), Picoides villosus (Hairy woodpecker), and Dryocopus pileatus (Pileated woodpecker).

In addition to birds, this site provides potential habitat for Crotalus horridus (Timber rattlesnake), Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides (Scarlet kingsnake), and possibly Sistrurus m. miliarius (Pygmy rattlesnake).

Management/Protection Recommendations:

The U.S. Forest Service manages the Roberdo Bog and Longleaf Pine Forest. Thinning is used to convert the forest from a hardwood to longleaf pine canopy. Controlled burns are used to reduce the woody sapling understory, reduce fuel buildup, and regenerate the longleaf pines. Amphibians and reptile use the upland buffer to burrow up to six inches into the ground during their nonbreeding life cycle. Therefore, it is necessary to protect the buffer from soil compaction. Portions of the site are included as a Registered Natural Area through the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program.